

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee

Although the intent of “addressing gun violence” is laudable, the methods stated in **HB6667** and **HB6816** are too simplistic and do not address the actual failings of society to educate and provide opportunity to its citizens so they won't be as likely to be compelled to pursue criminal activity. This bill would have a severe impact on the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves. The criminal elements in our society simply scoff knowing they will not be vigorously prosecuted even if caught. The existing laws are sufficient to address these issues; they just need to be enforced. The judicial system must take the lead on this.

Are Connecticut citizens so incompetent or inherently more dangerous than citizens of many other states who are free to have and use these types of firearms? Not according to the Supreme Court of the United States' decision on the *Bruno* case. The draconian measures being advanced in these bills are clearly not in conformance to the Second Amendment as interpreted by SCOTUS and will be challenged. Connecticut's government officials are always touting a surplus of funds. Why not use these funds to address the root cause of violent crime instead of wasting taxpayer money on frivolous litigation

How many of these presently banned and proposed banned firearms are actually used in violent crimes, in this state or in others? Please propose solutions that will actually address the root cause of much criminal activity. I get it; it's a lot easier to blame the gun.

Concerning additional **firearm safety training**: The state offers **FREE** classes on hunting and boating safety. Why not do the same thing for firearms training.-Isn't it important enough to have well trained and educated gun owners/users?

Microstamping of ammunition is a technology that has not been perfected. Firearms are actually fairly simple “machines”, which contributes to their reliability. Adding additional components would make them less reliable; Something no one in an emergency survival situation would want to experience.

Body armor is a proven life saving device. Again I ask why would anyone want to deprive a person from utilizing this technology in an emergency survival situation?

I therefore **OPPOSE HB No. 6667 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE** and urge you all to do the same.

I also **OPPOSE H.B. No. 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING MICROSTAMPING-ENABLED PISTOLS, RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION AND RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR.**

Respectfully,
Robert J. O'Connell
Southington
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